

HAPPENINGS in the BIG CITIES

Confusion of Tongues, Garments, and Parents

NEW YORK.—The wisdom of parents who know their own children was sadly lacking on the part of one mother on Ellis island the other day. On that account, had it not been for his acute perception and his persistence,



Abraham Blaz, two and a half years old, might now be Miss Josephine Lasich, two years old, so far as records are concerned.

Abraham and his mother arrived a few days ago from Warsaw, Russia, and his first step toward American citizenship was to acquire that inevitable American infantile malady—measles. The measles hindered his progress somewhat, for he was sent to the Ellis island hospital, where he met for the first time little Josephine Lasich. Josephine's little sister was very ill, so she and her mother were detained.

Abraham emerged from the measles unconditionally several days ago, and the physicians decided that he could resume his clothes and prepare to leave the island. At the same time little Josephine awoke and asked in her very best Croatin to be dressed. Coincidentally, something out in the bay attracted the attention of the nurses for a moment so that Abraham, reaching for a garment, picked up something belonging to Josephine before the nurses returned.

Presently the unprotesting Abraham was garbed in the clothes of Josephine, which bore the little girl's tag of identification as well. Josephine made no complaint, neither did Abraham.

When Mrs. Blaz called to see her son and—well, she got his clothes, but the contents thereof did not seem to respond to her paternal affections with all the readiness of a week before. "Abraham," furthermore, did not seem to understand the native tongue of the Blazes as well as he had before he became ill. Mrs. Blaz attributed "his" reticence to the measles and was passing out of the ward when a little "girl" ran out and cried in pleading terms: "Mamma! Mamma!"

That was more like the way Abraham should speak, but Mrs. Blaz was certain that she never had a daughter. The inhabitant of Josephine Lasich's clothes was so insistent, though, that Mrs. Blaz, Mrs. Lasich and the nurses went into executive session and investigated. Stripped of the finery of Abraham, the "son" of her choice did not look to Mrs. Blaz like the boy of old, nor did the undraped "Josephine" appear familiar to Mrs. Lasich.

A shift of clothing worked wonders both in the restoration of relatives and the joy of the mothers.

Queer Noises End When Hoboes Are Arrested

CLEVELAND, O.—For six long weeks police of the second precinct station, Oregon avenue Northeast and East Twenty-fourth street, had been trying to solve the mystery of queer noises that came from the "hole in the wall" of a factory at the foot of East Thirty-seventh street.

The hole is a place where cinders are cooled. Prepared for the worst, an exploring party was formed the other night, headed by Sergeants Holcomb and McMaisters.

Result: Sergeant McMaisters, bruised and loser of a perfectly new uniform. Patrolman Snider recovering from effects of a fall into an eight-foot tank of water, from which he was rescued by his fellow officers with the aid of long poles.

Other explorers suffering from bruises and strained limbs. Fourteen hoboes locked up in the second precinct charged with vagrancy.

Mystery of the "hole in the wall" solved. Queer noises were results of hobo's snoring.

It was nine o'clock at night when the party arrived at the "hole in the wall." Halt was called by the sergeants, and the party went into conference. It was decided to surround the place and let Sergeant McMaisters, the thinnest of the party, climb through the hole.

Thus decided, Sergeant McMaisters started his trip into the pitch dark place. Before he was half through, jagged edges of the wall ripped his uniform in several places.

While McMaisters continued scrambling, Patrolman Snider, stranger to the place, went on a little trip of his own. He fell into a tank of lukewarm water.

His cries for help were heard by other members of the party, who managed to fish him out of the tank. He was taken to the station in the emergency auto. While attention was directed to the saving of Patrolman Snider, hoboes in a long line began filing out of the place.

Sergeant Holcomb discovered them escaping. With three other officers he managed to corral 14 of them.

Percy Did Not Believe in the Human Eye's Power

CINCINNATI.—Houston Plunkett is not much of a runner, having only one leg, but as a hypnotist he admits that he is probably the greatest the world has ever known. He made his boast in a rooming house in West Lake street a few evenings ago. It was greeted with guffaws by unbelievers. Percy Milton was one of the leaders among the faithless.

"Hypnotist! Huh!" sniffed Percy. Houston looked not a word. He advanced on the unbeliever, looked him straight in the eye and made several rapid passes with his hands, accompanying each movement with a "phuff! phuff!"

Percy's hilarious laugh resolved into a peaceful smile; he sank back in his chair and snored soundly.

"And now, ladies and gents," Houston announced to his open-mouthed audience, "I'll show you a trick with an overcoat."

He took Percy's overcoat from Percy's unresisting form; also his undercoat and with a series of awe-inspiring "phuff-phuffts" and more mysterious passes he hobbled out into the street.

In Judge Dolan's court Percy described the incident in elaborate detail. He said he had slept 26 hours and still felt "dopey." Houston had failed to produce his two coats after the magic disappearing act, he said.

Houston admitted that he pawned the garments. He said he needed 50 cents to buy a magic wand, so he could put on an entertainment in a South side church. Judge Dolan sent the world's greatest hypnotist to the bridge well for 30 days.

Both Houston and Percy are negroes.

Man Was So Excited He Just Couldn't Remember

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.—It is not often that the secrets of the grand jury room are bare to the public and less often are these secrets "let out" by the judge of the criminal court, but Judge Markey of the criminal court says a recent grand jury investigation of a gambling case which he attended brought out a witness who would match up well with the trusty witness who so ably says: "I just can't remember about that."

A craps game had been going on for some time in Indiana avenue and a witness was called before the grand jury, which desired to obtain some of the names of the players.

James E. Deery, deputy prosecutor in charge of the grand jury, questioned the witness.

"Now, tell us the names of some of those men you saw there," said the prosecutor.

"Well, you know," replied the man, "when I went in there I saw about eight men I knew. But there were so many there I really can't say how many I did know. You see when I rushed in there I looked around for a minute and then I forgot all about who was there."

"Well," said the prosecutor, "give us an idea of the number of men there. Were there a million?"

"No, there wasn't a million. Just about 75."

"Give us the names of the men you knew there."

"Well, you see, I knew them at the time, but I just can't remember their names now. You see I was so excited."

METHODS USED IN THE PROTECTION OF FORESTS OF U. S. FROM FIRES

Great Progress Has Been Made in the Work—Organized Plans Obtain in the National Reserves, While the States of the Union Have Systematized Method of Preserving Their Forests From This Scourge.

Washington.—The first measure necessary for the successful practice of forestry is protection from forest fires.

As long as there is any considerable risk from fire, forest owners have little incentive to make provision for natural reproduction, to plant trees, to make improvement cuttings, or to do their work looking to continued forest production.

In many localities great progress has lately been made in forest protection.

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